

**EAST COVENTRY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: By telephone conference: Gail Brown (Chairperson), Scott Fitzgerald (Vice Chairperson), Jeffrey Stevenson (Secretary) and Larry Tietjen (Planning Commission Liaison/Member)

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Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by G. Brown, Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

Minutes for January 07, 2020 were reviewed. G. Brown noted minor changes. A motion was made by L. Tietjen to accept the minutes as amended and was seconded by S. Fitzgerald. Approved 4-0-0

Minutes for February 11, 2020 were not complete – tabled until next meeting

Minutes for March 10, 2020 were not complete – tabled until next meeting

Minutes for May 12, 2020 were not complete – tabled until next meeting

Public Comment: Mr. Jacob Singer, Jacob A. Singer Real Estate Investments, Horsham, PA was present to participate in the 1574 New Schuylkill Road proposed Demolition Permit

New Business

ARRO Engineering Status/Activity Report of May 11, 2020 superseded by ARRO Engineering Report of June 8, 2020. June 8, 2020 report, members reviewed specifically the Fricks Locks Trailhead, Item 3 – All permits received and approved, prebid meeting May 12, 2020 with several contractors attending, and bids due June 4, 2020.

Old Business

G. Brown informed the Historical Commission members that the Board of Supervisors at their June 8, 2020 meeting had approved the Construction Contract for the Fricks Locks Trailhead. G. Brown informed the Historical Commission member that the Board of Supervisors at their June 8, 2020 meeting had moved to rebid without the interior rehabilitation of Building #19. The low bid received was \$1,137,309, almost \$600,000.00 in excess of budget. A rebid meeting is to be scheduled.

The Historical Commission members reviewed the proposed Demolition Permit for property located at 1574 New Schuylkill Road. Mr. Jacob Singer, property owner was present. We reviewed Mr. Singers letter of May 8, 2020 to N. Gail Brown, Historical Commission, Chairperson and the Historical Commission letter of April 8, 202 to Mr. David Kraynik, East Coventry Township Manager.

ZO 27-1205-1A - Mr. Singer requested the interior photographs of the properties proposed to be demolished be waived due to COVID-19 restrictions, sealed access and safety concerns. The Historical Commission recommended the interior photographs of the first floor only through windows and doors by remote access.

ZO 27-1205-1(B)(1) – Mr. Singer had identified the Schuylkill Navigation Company's as a neighboring contributing Historic Resource. The Historical Commission identified three (3) additional properties located on the East Coventry Historic Resource Map and discussed additional sources for this information should Mr. Singer need to identify

resources in the future.

ZO 27-1205(B)(2) - In his opinion, Mr. Singer saw no economically feasible use for the Historic Resource. Recommended Mr. Singer produce documentation to back up his opinion.

ZO 27-1205(B)(3) – In his opinion, Mr. Singer stated in his May 8, 2020 letter that the Resource has no viable use. Recommended Mr. Singer produce documentation to back up his opinion.

Mr. Singer stated the Township had told him to demolish the property. When asked if this was a verbal request or submitted as an official document, Mr. Singer said he was served with a 'Notice of Violation' which resulted in a court case. When asked if the court case resulted in direction to demolish the properties, Mr. Singer replied 'no'.

L. Tietjen made a motion to table the Historical Commission's final determination at 1574 Schuylkill Road until full, proper information and documentation could be reviewed. This was to include any paperwork in association with a court case, East Coventry potential legal action against the owner, and/or East Coventry Township safety violation. These should be fully considered and reviewed in regards to the property before any final determination can be made by our Commission. Jeff Stevenson seconded the motion. The Historical Commission approved the motion 4-0-0.

The Historical Commission reviewed mock-up of mortar color and finish as approved by Chester County and Gail Brown, representing the Historical Commission.

Planning Commission Liaison Report – L. Tietjen

Mr. Tietjen stated the Planning Commission had reviewed Ordinances not related to the Historical Commission at their May meeting.

Committees

Fricks Locks Subcommittee – G. Brown, L. Tietjen, J. Stevenson – to be activated with resolution of the PECO Maintenance contract

Fricks Locks Volunteer Tour Committee – S. Fitzgerald, G. Brown, J. Stevenson Short discussion on the whether to conduct tours for the remainder of the season. Decided to see how lessening of restrictions affect COVID-19 and address at the July meeting.

Archives Committee – G. Brown No progress to report

Oral History Committee – unassigned

Other Business

G. Brown reported the Chester County/Chester County Historic Preservation Network annual 'Volunteer Celebration Dinner' cancelled due to COVID-19.

G. Brown reported Chester County will present virtual 2020 Town Tour and Village Walks.

Adjournment

A motion was made by L. Tietjen to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by S. Fitzgerald

Approved 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

N. Gail Brown
Substitute Secretary